

BUFFALOBERRY PATCH



By Greg Freeman, Department News Editor

Proclamation Includes Hunting Over Bait, Transportation Restrictions in Unit 3F2

North Dakotans hunting big game in other states and provinces are familiar with chronic wasting disease and the proclamation established for transporting deer, elk and moose carcasses and carcass parts into the state. However, this year's proclamation has additional safety measures for hunters within the state, specifically the area in southwestern North Dakota known as deer hunting unit 3F2.

Greg Link, North Dakota Game and Fish Department assistant wildlife chief, said because a mule deer taken last fall in unit 3F2 tested positive for CWD, guidelines were established to prohibit hunting big game over bait in unit 3F2. Also included in the proclamation is carcass transportation guidelines for animals harvested within the unit.

"Unfortunately, a hunter-harvested deer tested positive for CWD in 2009, and this required the state to implement prevention measures within North Dakota as well," Link said. "These measures are intended to reduce the likelihood of spreading CWD within North Dakota."

This means hunters harvesting a big game animal in deer unit 3F2 cannot transport a carcass containing the head and spinal column outside of the unit unless it's taken directly to a state-inspected meat processor. The head can be removed from the carcass and transported outside of the unit if it is to be submitted to a CWD surveillance drop-off location or a licensed taxidermist. Upon arrival at a drop-off location, paperwork will be available for transporting the meat to its final place of storage.

"A letter will be mailed to all hunters with a 3F2 deer gun license with additional details and instructions," Link said. "Bowhunters hunting in unit 3F2 should contact the Game and Fish Department with any inquiries, including where to submit heads for CWD testing purposes.

Drop-off locations for CWD testing during the deer gun season will be announced in late October."

The second provision within North Dakota, consistent with South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks and Standing Rock Game and Fish Department regulations, prohibits hunting big game over bait in deer unit 3F2. Bait, in this case, includes grain, seed, mineral, salt, fruit, vegetable nut, hay or any other natural or manufactured food placed by an individual. Bait does not include agricultural practices, gardens, wildlife food plots, agricultural crops, livestock feeds, fruit or vegetables in their natural location such as apples on or under an apple tree, or unharvested food or vegetables in a garden.

As in the past, the proclamation still prohibits hunters from transporting into North Dakota the whole carcass, or certain carcass parts, of deer, elk, moose or other members of the cervid family from areas within states and provinces with documented occurrences of CWD in wild populations, or from farmed cervid operations within states and provinces that have had farmed cervids diagnosed with CWD. Only the following portions of the carcass can be transported:

- Meat that is cut and wrapped either commercially or privately.
- Quarters or other portions of meat with no part of the spinal column or head attached.
- Meat that has been boned out.
- Hides with no heads attached.
- Clean (no meat or tissue attached) skull plates with antlers attached.
- Antlers with no meat or tissue attached.
- Upper canine teeth, also known as buglers, whistlers or ivories.
- Finished taxidermy heads.

The following game management units, equivalent wildlife management units,

or counties have had free-ranging deer, moose or elk diagnosed with CWD, and importation of harvested elk, white-tailed deer, mule deer, moose or other cervids from these areas are restricted.

- North Dakota – Deer unit 3F2. Gutted/eviscerated carcasses being taken to a North Dakota state-inspected meat processor are exempt, as are heads removed from the carcass and taken to a licensed taxidermist or provided to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department for submission for CWD surveillance purposes.
- Alberta – Wildlife management units 150, 151, 163, 234, 236, 256, 728.
- Colorado – All game management units.
- Illinois – Counties of Winnebago, Boone, McHenry, DeKalb, Ogle, LaSalle, Stephenson.
- Kansas – Counties of Cheyenne, Decatur, Rawlins, Sheridan.
- Nebraska – Upper Platte, Platte, Plains, Sandhills, Frenchman, Buffalo and Pine Ridge units, which include the counties of Cheyenne, Kimball, Sioux, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Sheridan, Box Butte, Dawes, Banner, Cherry, Hall, Garden, Keith, Red Willow, Deuel, Grant, Arthur.
- New Mexico – White Sands Missile Base (GMU 19), GMU 28, GMU 34.
- New York – Any deer taken within the CWD containment areas of Oneida and Madison counties.
- Saskatchewan – Wildlife management zones 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 24, 25, 29, 43, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 68 South and Fort à la Corne Wildlife Management Unit.
- South Dakota – Prairie units WRD-21A, WRD-27A, WRD-27B; Black Hills units BHD-BH1, BHD-BD3, BHD-BD4.



CRAIG BIRRE

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has sampled the entire state twice for chronic wasting disease, by annually collecting samples taken from hunter-harvested deer.

- Utah – 16A, 16B, 16C, 13A, 13B, 8A, 8B, 8C, 9A, 9B, 9C, 9D.
- Virginia – Frederick County.
- West Virginia – Hampshire County.
- Wisconsin – Any deer registered with a Wisconsin DNR Red Registration Tag from the area designated as the Disease Eradication Zone or Herd Reduction Zone including deer management zones 54B-CWD, 70-CWD, 70A-CWD, 70B-CWD, 70C-CWD, 70D-CWD, 70E-CWD, 70F-CWD, 70G-CWD, 71-CWD, 73B-CWD, 73E-CWD, 75A-CWD, 75B-CWD, 75C-CWD, 75D-CWD, 76-CWD, 76A-CWD, 76M-CWD, 77A-CWD, 77B-CWD, 77C-CWD.
- Wyoming – All deer and elk units.

In addition, the following states and provinces have had farmed deer, elk, moose or other cervids diagnosed with CWD, and importation of farmed deer, elk, moose and other cervid carcasses or their parts are restricted: Alberta, Colorado, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Oklahoma, Saskatchewan, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Additional areas will be added as necessary and listed on the North Dakota Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov.

Because each state and province has its own set of rules and regulations, hunters

should contact the state or province in which they will hunt to obtain more information. Hunters with questions can contact the North Dakota Game and Fish Department at (701) 328-6300, or e-mail ndgfh@nd.gov.

Agencies Increase CWD Surveillance Efforts

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Game and Fish, and South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks are coordinating efforts to increase surveillance in southwestern North Dakota where a mule deer taken last fall tested positive for chronic wasting disease.

According to officials, all agencies will sample hunter-harvested deer, elk and moose, road kills and sick-acting animals.

The increased surveillance area includes North Dakota deer hunting unit 3F2 (eastern Adams County, southeastern Hettinger County, southern Grant County, south central Morton County and all of Sioux County), the Standing Rock Reservation, and South Dakota deer units 53A (northern Perkins County) and 20A (Corson County).

The majority of collections will occur during each agency's deer rifle season, with coordinated collection efforts from hunter-harvested animals planned for November.

Additional details regarding collection points will be distributed prior to this fall's deer rifle seasons.

North Dakota Game and Fish officials were notified in March that a sick-looking mule deer taken last fall in western Sioux County

tested positive for CWD, the first time an animal has tested positive in North Dakota.

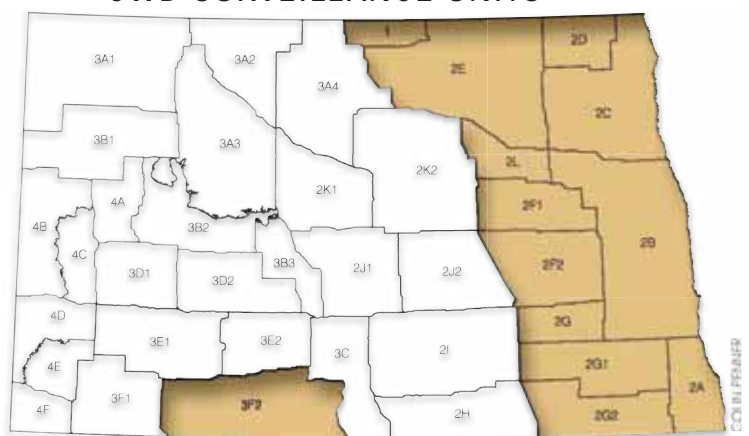
Since the location is near the South Dakota border, SDGFP will expand its monitoring efforts to the northwest. CWD efforts had been concentrated in southwestern South Dakota where the disease is established – the Black Hills and Custer and Fall River counties. In addition, SDGFP has a statewide surveillance program that samples sick deer when they are reported.

In addition to targeted surveillance, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department has sampled the entire state twice by annually collecting samples taken from hunter-harvested deer in specific regions of the state. Since sampling efforts began in 2002, more than 14,000 deer, elk and moose have tested negative for CWD.

CWD affects the nervous system of members of the deer family and is always fatal. Scientists have found no evidence that CWD can be transmitted naturally to humans or livestock.

For additional information regarding CWD sampling in these areas, or to report a sick acting deer, contact the appropriate agency: North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Bismarck – (701) 328-6300; Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Fort Yates – (701) 854-7236; South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Rapid City – (605) 394-2391, or Mobridge – (605) 845-7814.

CWD SURVEILLANCE UNITS



Agencies Prohibit Hunting Over Bait

Hunting big game over bait is prohibited on all state owned or managed wildlife management areas, all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service national wildlife refuges and waterfowl production areas, U.S. Forest Service national grasslands, as well as North Dakota state school, state park and state forest service lands.

In addition, the governor's proclamation relating to chronic wasting disease includes a provision that prohibits hunting big game over bait in deer Unit 3F2, where a deer carrying CWD was harvested last fall.

Antlerless Deer Licenses Available

Hunters still have time to purchase doe licenses for North Dakota's 2010 deer gun season. Refer to the Game and Fish Department website for an update of licenses available.

Hunters can apply for these first-come, first-served licenses online at gf.nd.gov. Paper applications are available from Game and Fish offices, county auditors and license vendors. Hand delivered applications will not be processed at the Department while the applicant waits. Residents and nonresidents are eligible to apply.

Additional concurrent season doe licenses can be used during the archery season with a bow; the deer gun season with a bow, rifle, or muzzleloader; or during the muzzleloader season with a muzzleloader. These licenses must be used for antlerless deer only, and hunters must stay in the unit to which the license is assigned.

In addition, youth deer license hunters ages 14 and 15 may purchase additional concurrent season doe licenses to use during the youth season.

Fall Turkey Licenses Available

Fall turkey licenses are still available on a first-come, first-served basis. Hunters are allowed a maximum of 15 licenses for the fall season.

Resident and nonresident hunters can apply online, or print out an application to mail, at the Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov. Paper applications are available at license vendors.

Refer to the Game and Fish website for an update of licenses available. The fall turkey season runs from October 9 through January 9, 2011.



MIKE ANDERSON

Record Number of Walleye Fingerlings Stocked

North Dakota Game and Fish Department fisheries crews stocked a record number of walleye into state waters in 2010.

Garrison Dam (10 million) and Valley City (1.5 million) national fish hatcheries produced 11.5 million fingerlings, besting the record of 10.9 million in 1991. "Fish quality and stocking conditions were great, with really nice fish and lots of cool water and flooded vegetation at the stocking sites," said Jerry Weigel, Department fisheries production and development section leader. "The federal hatchery system really delivered given the record walleye request this year."

The record total was driven by a higher than typical request of 10.1 million fingerlings, with 4 million targeted for Lake

Sakakawea.

"We had another 440,000 requested if surplus production occurred, and all of those requests were filled with most getting up to an additional 10 percent," Weigel said. "In addition, we also supplied Wyoming and Iowa with walleyes as part of a trade or to cover their production shortages."

Altogether, 114 lakes and rivers were stocked in North Dakota, Weigel said, covering every corner of the state. "Coupled with natural reproduction, we have set the stage for a phenomenal walleye year," he said. "We will know more this fall when our crews check on survival rate of the stocked fish and determine the amount of natural reproduction."



HIP for Migratory Bird Hunters

Migratory game bird hunters must register with the Harvest Information Program prior to hunting in North Dakota this fall.

HIP certification is required for all migratory bird hunters, regardless of age, before hunting ducks, geese, swans, mergansers, coots, cranes, snipe, doves or woodcock.

Hunter compliance is essential for reliable national and regional estimates of annual harvest of all migratory game bird species, which help biologists make sound decisions concerning hunting seasons, bag limits and population management.

Hunters who purchase a license through the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's electronic licensing system (gf.nd.gov) or instant licensing telephone number at (800) 406-6409 can easily get HIP certified.

Otherwise, hunters can access the Department's website, or call (888) 634-4798 and record the HIP number on their fishing, hunting and furbearer certificate.

Those who registered to hunt the spring light goose season or early Canada goose season in North Dakota do not have to register with HIP again, as it is required only once per year. However, hunters must HIP register in each state for which they are licensed before hunting migratory game birds.

CRAIG BIRRE

Sandhill Crane Permits Required

Hunting permits for North Dakota's 2010 sandhill crane season, opening September 18, are available from the Game and Fish Department.

Hunters need a special crane permit, regardless of age. The permit costs \$5 and is available through the state Game and Fish Department's Bismarck office.

Hunters can purchase their crane permit online at the Department's website, gf.nd.gov. Another option is to send the permit fee, along with personal information, including height, weight, sex, social security number, date of birth, color of hair and eyes, and hunter education number and state issued, to Crane Permit, NDGF, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501.

Project to Keep Carp from Devils Lake Begins in Fall

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department is funding a small project in Cavalier County to keep carp in the Pembina River drainage from entering the Devils Lake basin.

For the past few years the Game and Fish Department has been working with landowners and water boards

in Cavalier and Ramsey counties in developing a plan that will keep carp out of Devils Lake. If carp were to enter Devils Lake, the carrying capacity of game fish populations would suffer dramatically and the nationally-renowned walleye and northern pike fishery would decline.

This fall, an existing road grade near Loma will be raised to serve as a permanent barrier. In addition, water flow through the area will be enhanced. All permits and approvals have been procured, and construction should be completed prior to next spring's runoff.



MIKE ANDERSON

North Dakota Game and Fish Department personnel will continue periodic sampling for zebra mussels in the Red River during the open-water season. Lynn Schlueter, Department aquatic nuisance species coordinator, is pictured during last summer's efforts to locate microscopic zebra mussel young.

Zebra Mussel Discovered in North Dakota

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has confirmed the presence of a zebra mussel veliger in the Red River between Wahpeton, North Dakota and Breckenridge, Minnesota. The veliger, the microscopic free-swimming (young) stage of the zebra mussel, was isolated from a routine plankton sample taken at Kidder Dam in Wahpeton.

Zebra mussels are an aquatic nuisance species introduced into North America and currently found in many states east and south of North Dakota.

"We are disappointed, but not surprised that zebra mussels have entered the Red River," said Lynn Schlueter, Game and Fish ANS coordinator. "The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources found them in the Red River watershed in the Pelican Lake chain well upstream of Wahpeton-Breckenridge last fall. And again this spring new mussel infestations were documented in Minnesota upstream of the Red River, including in Lake Lizzie."

Zebra mussel veligers can float along in river currents for weeks before eventually attaching to hard structures and growing into dime-sized mussels. When established, these invasive mussels reproduce at rapid rates. One female can produce up to a million eggs a season and each egg has the potential to develop into an adult.

Adult mussels attach to hard surfaces such as rocks, submerged trees, bridge abutments, docks and industrial or

municipal water intake pipes. When in dense colonies they can block water flow in pipes, causing costly damages annually in the United States.

Zebra mussels can also alter natural ecosystems. They are siphon feeders capable of filtering about one liter of water per day while feeding primarily on plankton. These exotic mussels have the ability to alter the food chain and eventually deplete native flora and/or fauna in the affected water.

Game and Fish personnel collected more samples that were sent off for further testing. In addition, Department biologists, along with natural resources staff from Minnesota and Manitoba, will continue periodic sampling of the Red River during the open-water season, and will work with local government entities along the Red to monitor boat docks and other hard structures for the presence of adult zebra mussels. Game and Fish staff will also provide preventative and maintenance information to municipalities along the Red River.

"Zebra mussels, like most aquatic nuisance species, are extremely difficult and costly to eliminate once they are established, but what we can do is minimize the potential for people to transport them elsewhere," Schlueter said. "We can't stress enough the importance of following the laws that are already in place to prevent introduction of ANS into new waters."

Existing ANS regulations include:

- All water must be drained from boats and other watercraft, including bilges and motors before leaving a water body.
- All aquatic vegetation must be removed from boats and construction equipment, personal watercraft, trailers and associated equipment such as fishing poles/lures before leaving a body of water.
- All aquatic vegetation must be removed from bait buckets when leaving the water.
- Live aquatic bait or aquatic vegetation may not be transported into North Dakota. Also, all water must be drained from watercraft prior to entering the state.

In addition, the Game and Fish Department has developed a potential rule change that would require draining all water from livewells and baitwells prior to leaving a water body. This would mean fish, including bait, may no longer be transported in a livewell containing water. If approved, this rule would likely become effective October 1.

"We encourage anglers to implement this practice immediately," Schlueter stressed. "Zebra mussels are a real threat and we don't want them to move into any other waters."

Photo Contest Deadline Nears

The deadline for submitting photos to the Game and Fish Department's annual Watchable Wildlife Photo Contest is September 30.



2009 Game Category 1st Place

*Mule Deer
Kevin Anderson, Bismarck
Canon Rebel XTi
Photo taken in North Unit of
Theodore Roosevelt National Park*

The contest has categories for nongame and game species, as well as plants/insects. An overall winning photograph will be chosen, with the number of place winners in each category determined by the number of qualified entries.

Contest entries are limited to 5x7-inch or larger color prints, or digital files submitted on disk or via e-mail. Contestants are limited to no more than five entries.

Full contest rules, and how to submit digital photos via e-mail, were published in the July 2010 issue of this magazine. They are also available at gf.nd.gov.

GAME & FISH STAFF



Leo Vetter



Tom Crutchfield



Seth Gaugler

Vetter Retires, Crutchfield, Gaugler Transfer

Longtime North Dakota Game and Fish Department wildlife technician Leo Vetter retired at the end of June after more than 40 years with the Department.

Wildlife technician Tom Crutchfield transferred from the Lonetree District Office near Harvey to the district office in Bismarck to replace Vetter.

Seth Gaugler has accepted the wildlife technician position at Lonetree. Gaugler worked in the Bismarck district before the move.